

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

## Eldorado National Forest

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### **Forest Service Issues Temporary Closure Order For Spider Lake**

**Placerville, CA...**On July 15, 2004 Eldorado National Forest Supervisor John Berry signed a temporary order closing the Spider Lake area, adjacent to the Rubicon four-wheel drive trail, to public use for 120 days due to a public health hazard. The order closes the National Forest land around Spider Lake and works in conjunction with El Dorado County's emergency resolution closing the private land in the area. The Rubicon 4WD trail is open for through traffic.

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors issued an emergency resolution earlier in the week declaring the area a public health hazard due to the significant amounts of human fecal waste deposited on and around the Spider Lake Little Sluice area by visitors. The fecal waste poses a health and safety threat to the public and a threat to the lake and streams. Berry agrees with the County's assessment of the situation and issued the forest order upon the completion of the required internal analysis.

"The closure is a short term fix for a recurring problem," stated John Berry. "The Eldorado National Forest will be working in cooperation with El Dorado County and user groups to develop a long term solution".

This is the first step in addressing the sanitation issue on the popular four-wheel drive trail. Recognizing that closing the area just shifts visitors to other areas, the forest is recommending that visitors pack out their waste.

People interested in volunteering on Rubicon Trail related projects can contact Mike Grey, El Dorado County Parks and Grounds, at 530-621-5330.

A copy of the order and map is available on the Eldorado National Forest web site at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado).